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From: Michael David Stepro <dave@mindbender.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Tue, Jul 27, 1999 12:43 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Michael David Stepro (dave@mindbender.net) on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 11:43:46

address: 832A Sussex Place

city: Ridgeland

state: MS

zip: 39157

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

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JUL 28 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad

citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.
6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.
10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.
11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued

expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University
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Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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DK-99-25

From: Jason Allen Tinkey <beppo@hevanet.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 1:15 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED**JUL 28 1999**

This email was submitted by Jason Allen Tinkey (beppo@hevanet.com)
on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 12:15:05

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

comments: Over the past fifteen years, I have witnessed the medium of radio change from a complimenting array of independent stations to a homogenous hunk of crap. There was a time when you could listen to a station and expect that the music you were hearing had been picked my DJs with similar tastes to your own. Songs were chosen by their merits, and would only remain in rotation if people actually liked them. Now, rigid playlists and "legal" payola are the norm for getting music on the air. I hardly ever listen to the radio anymore, because I know that the odds that I'll find something worthwhile to listen to are very slim. Huge corporations are killing the dynamics of radio, eliminating competition, and instituting nationwide mediocrity. As a music lover, I can tell you that there is so many deserving artists out there who are going ignored. The only place that they can receive any attention is through college and community-based commercial-free radio. I'm sure that the lob!

! bysts for the huge companies will argue that this will cause them to lose massive revenues. In the unlikely event that happens, then they'll just have to change their formats to remain competitive. That's the beauty of the free-market system, yeah? In reality, however, they should realize that it's only a very small fraction of the total audience who will utilize this. The masses have become content having commercialized "music" shoved down their throats. But what are those of us who are not content supposed to do? It's up to you to break the stranglehold that the broadcasting conglomerates and the major record labels hold on what Americans are exposed to and give this power back to the people.

address: 1512 Via Hacienda

city: Chula Vista

state: CA

zip: 91913

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Signed,

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Sean Sebastian Gomez <gomez@surfree.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 1:17 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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JUL 28 1999

This email was submitted by Sean Sebastian Gomez (gomez@surfree.com)
on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 12:17:15

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

comments: Dear FCC:

The airwaves are so heavily commercialized that they are in fact a huge commercial sandwich with a thin slice of programming, and that programming is so one-dimensional and uniform that the radio is hardly worth turning on. Except, of course, for public radio, which has excellent and diverse programming. However, in many parts of the country public radio is limited and impossible to receive. We need a change!

The idea of low-power microradio as a conduit for a community voice is the best thing that could possibly happen to radio, short of banning all commercial radio. Please consider this option.

Sincerely,

Sean Gomez
Teacher

address: 470 Centre St

city: Jamaica Plain

state: MA

zip: 02130

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
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disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

comments: Please allow microradio to blossom. It is our right. It is what makes America free, the power to act as we please. By not allowing this, you take away a part of our rights. I know you will make the right decision.

address: 501 High Street

city: Clinton

state: WI

zip: 53525-9126

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: James Manley <manleyart@earthlink.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 5:12 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

JUL 28 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

This email was submitted by James Manley (manleyart@earthlink.net)
on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 04:12:28

comments: I support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the US.

address: 1229 Glenn Street

city: Opelika

state: AL

zip: 36801

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: David M. N. Bryan <videoman@visi.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sun, Jul 18, 1999 7:00 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

JUL 28 1999

This email was submitted by David M. N. Bryan (videoman@visi.com)
on Sunday, July 18, 1999 at 18:00:10

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

comments: I want LPFM for my area in Minnesota.

We need less commerical "Big Brother" (Aka IBM, now Microsoft) radio sataions, we need something to
bring our local community together.

address: 862 Raymond Ave

city: St Paul

state: MN

zip: 55114

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
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MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Benjamin Peirce <peir0003@tc.umn.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sun, Jul 18, 1999 7:02 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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JUL 28 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

This email was submitted by Benjamin Peirce (peir0003@tc.umn.edu)
on Sunday, July 18, 1999 at 18:02:00

comments: Low power, non-commercial radio is a much needed element in today's broadcast media. It has been my experience that the commercialization of radio in the last two decades has left many of my acquaintances disenchanted and ultimately disinterested in this important medium. I believe that LPFM can help change all this for the reasons outlined above. Even if it is not regulated as thoroughly as suggested, more radio options are needed.

address: 135 Seymour Ave. SE #3

city: Minneapolis

state: MN

zip: 55414

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
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